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Bridging the Gap: Addressing Energy Burden for Low Income Vermonters

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Efficiency Vermont

Efficiency
Vermont

Overview

Low-income landscape

Energy burden deep dive

EVT programs

Adjacent services

EVT Resources for
Energy Committees



What we do

- Direct support through incentives, training, and technical advice
- Market transformation through supply chain engagement
- Partnership with energy service providers



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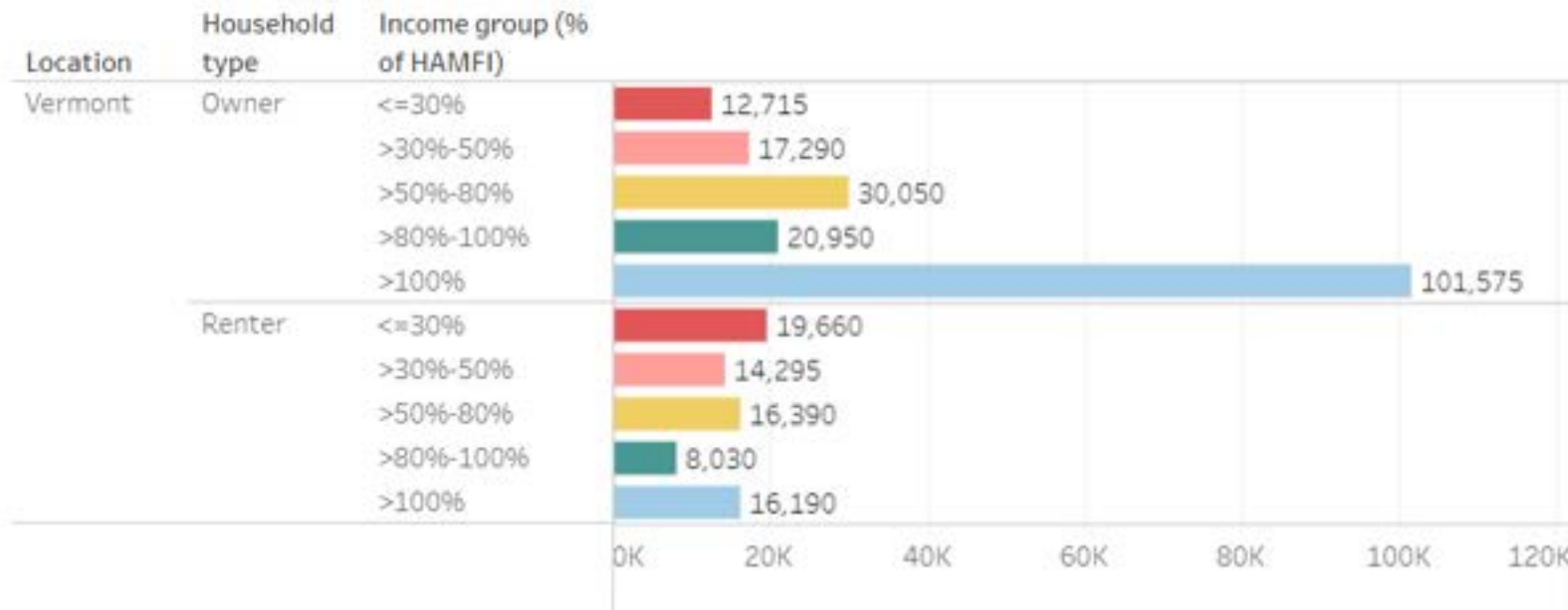
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Low-income landscape: Vermont



www.housingdata.org

33%

78%

Low-income landscape: county

Addison	31%
Bennington	30%
Caledonia	42%
Chittenden	26%
Essex	53%
Franklin	37%
Grand Isle	36%
Lamoille	34%
Orange	34%
Orleans	44%
Rutland	33%
Washington	31%
Windham	33%
Windsor	34%

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Energy burden definition



Energy
Spending

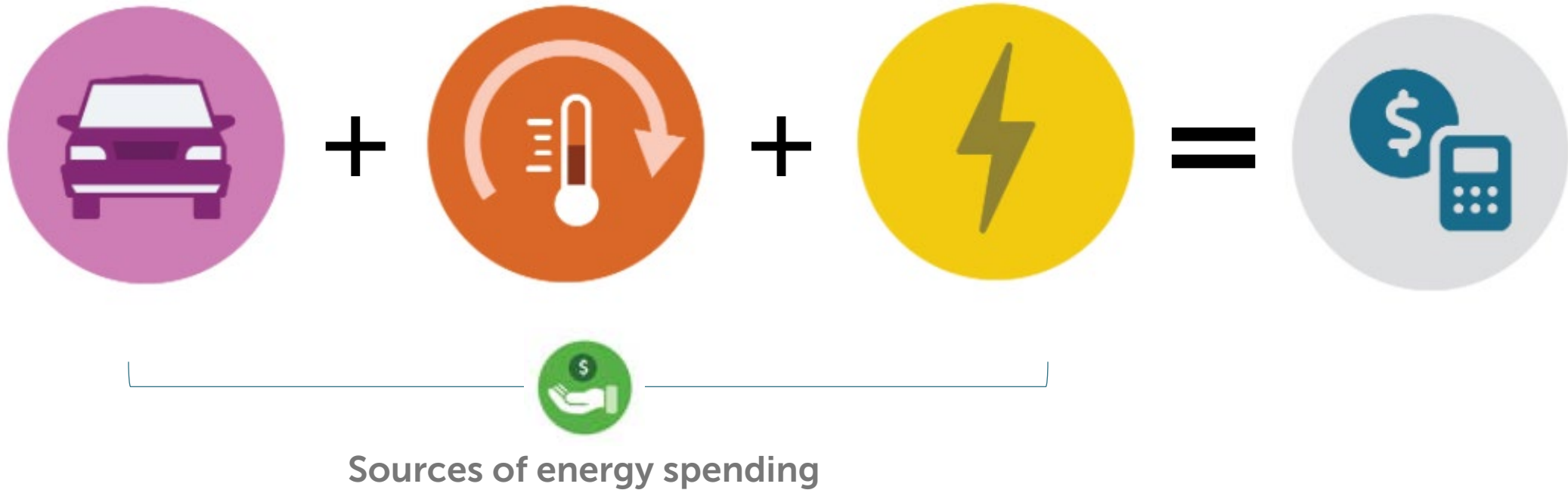


Household
Income



Total Energy
Burden

Energy burden





Energy burden

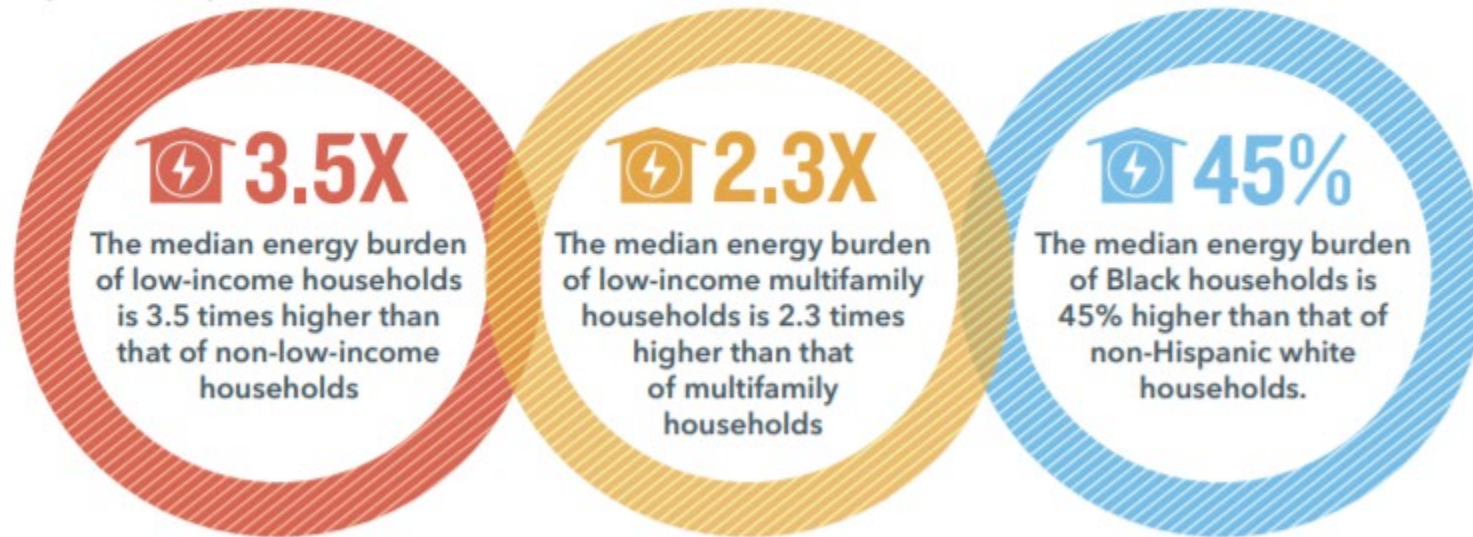
Households that pay more than 30% of income on housing are cost burdened

Energy costs should be no more than 20% of housing costs

6%

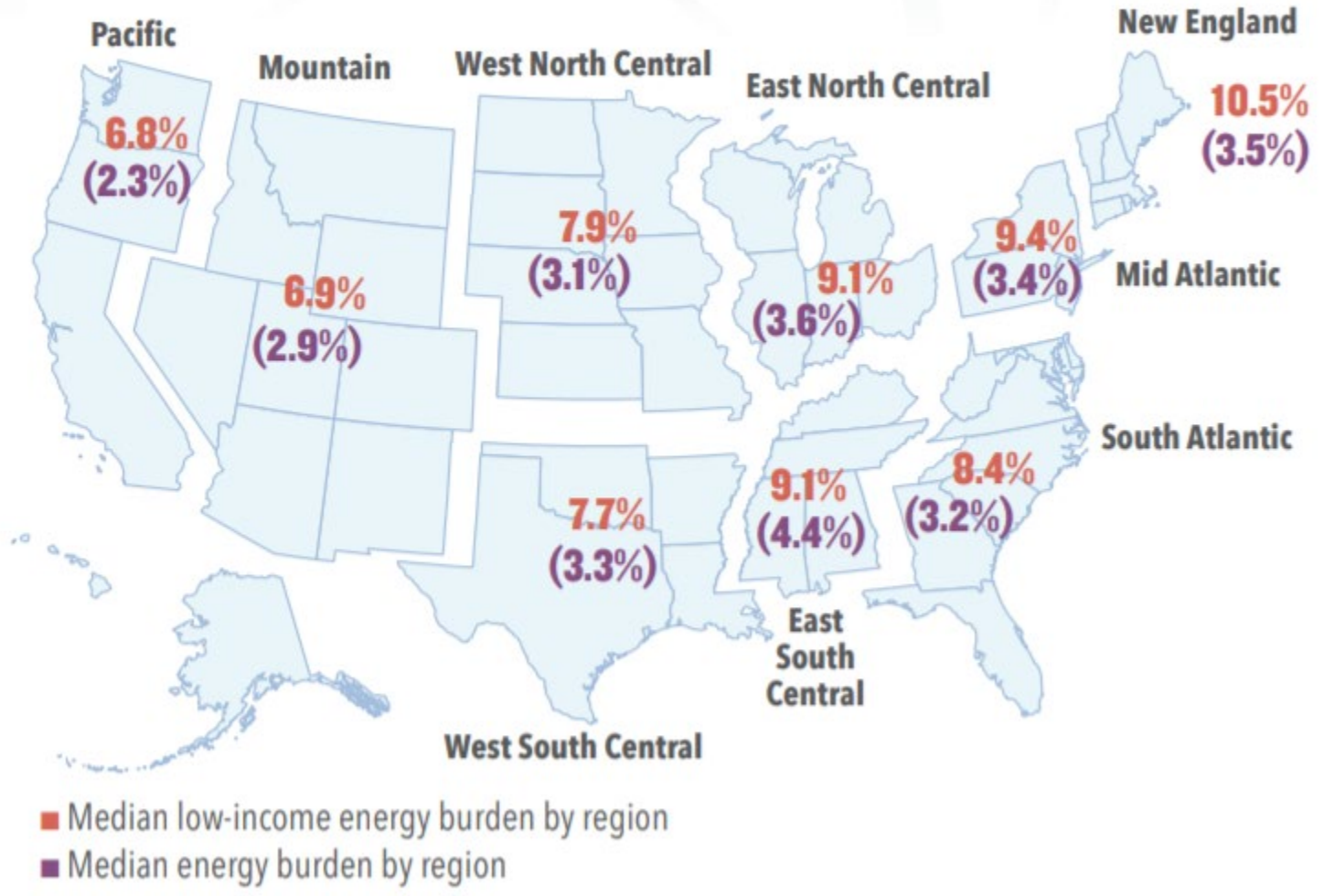
Energy burden

Energy burden across demographics



ACEEE (2020), How High Are Household Energy Burdens?

FIGURE 3. Median low-income (< 200% FPL) energy burdens by region (red) compared to median energy burdens by region (purple)

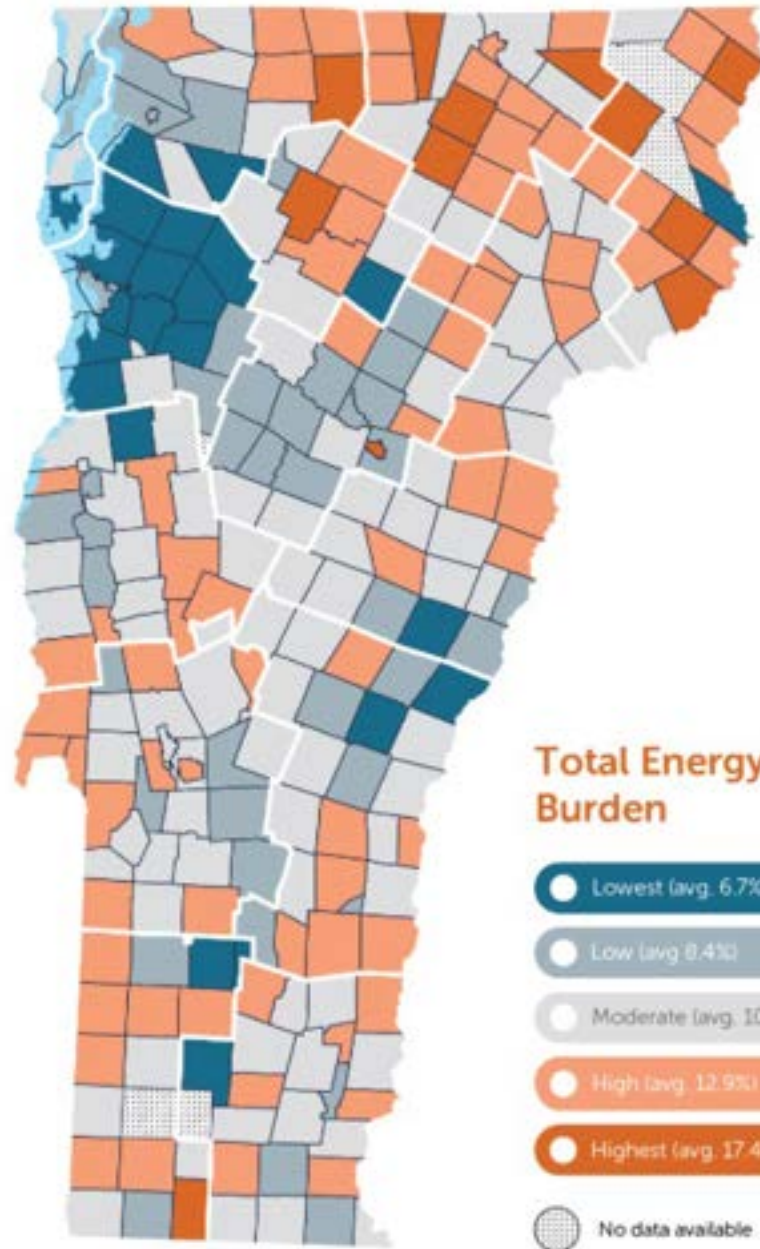


ACEEE (2020), How High Are Household Energy Burdens?

2019 Energy Burden Report



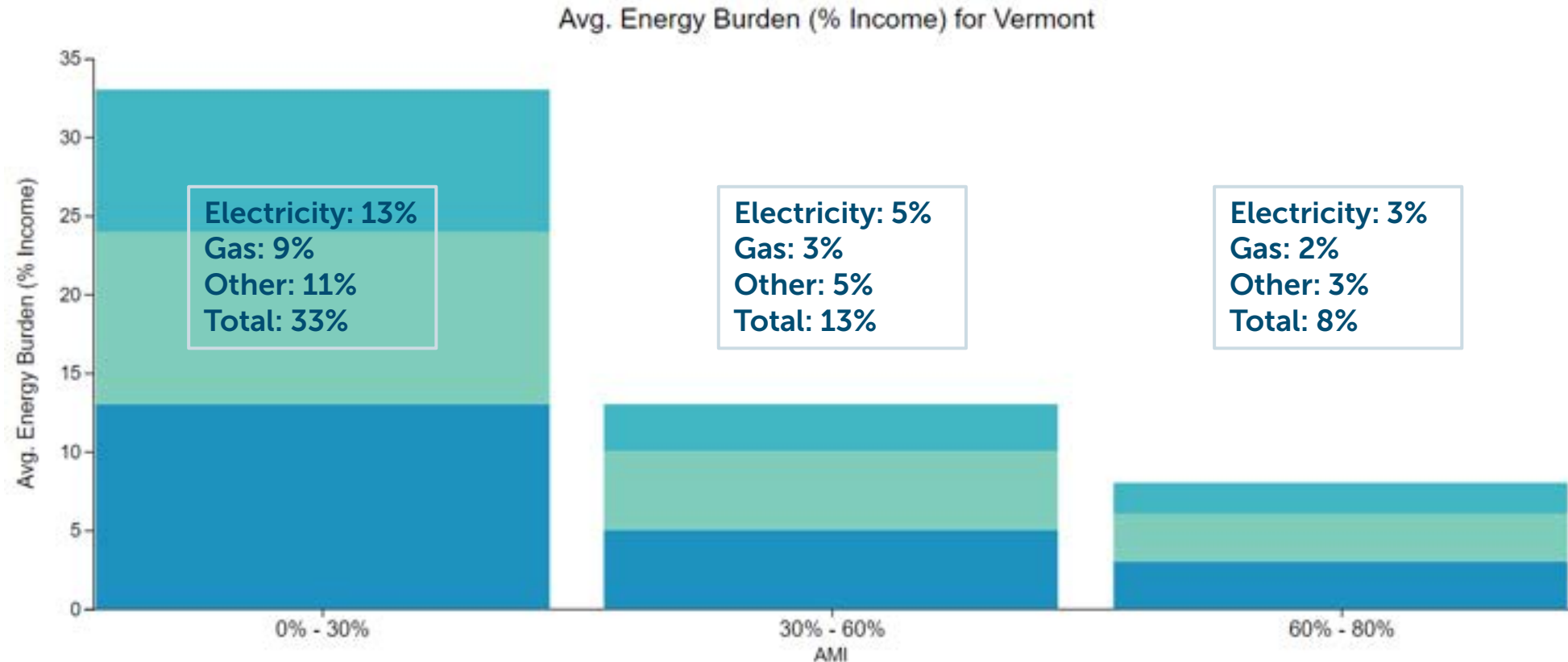
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Total Energy Burden

- Lowest (avg. 6.7%)
- Low (avg. 8.4%)
- Moderate (avg. 10.1%)
- High (avg. 12.9%)
- Highest (avg. 17.4%)
- No data available

Low-income energy burden



Source: DOE Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool

Mapping energy burden

1

Estimate your household's monthly income.

Include all sources of income from anybody over the age of 18 in your home. Multiply this number by 12 to estimate your annual household income.

2

Estimate your household's monthly energy bills.

Multiply this number by 12 to estimate your annual energy costs.

3

Calculate your household's energy burden.

Divide your household's annual energy costs by your household's annual income, then multiply by 100. Eg: $(\$2,222 \div \$75,000) \times 100 = 2.9\%$

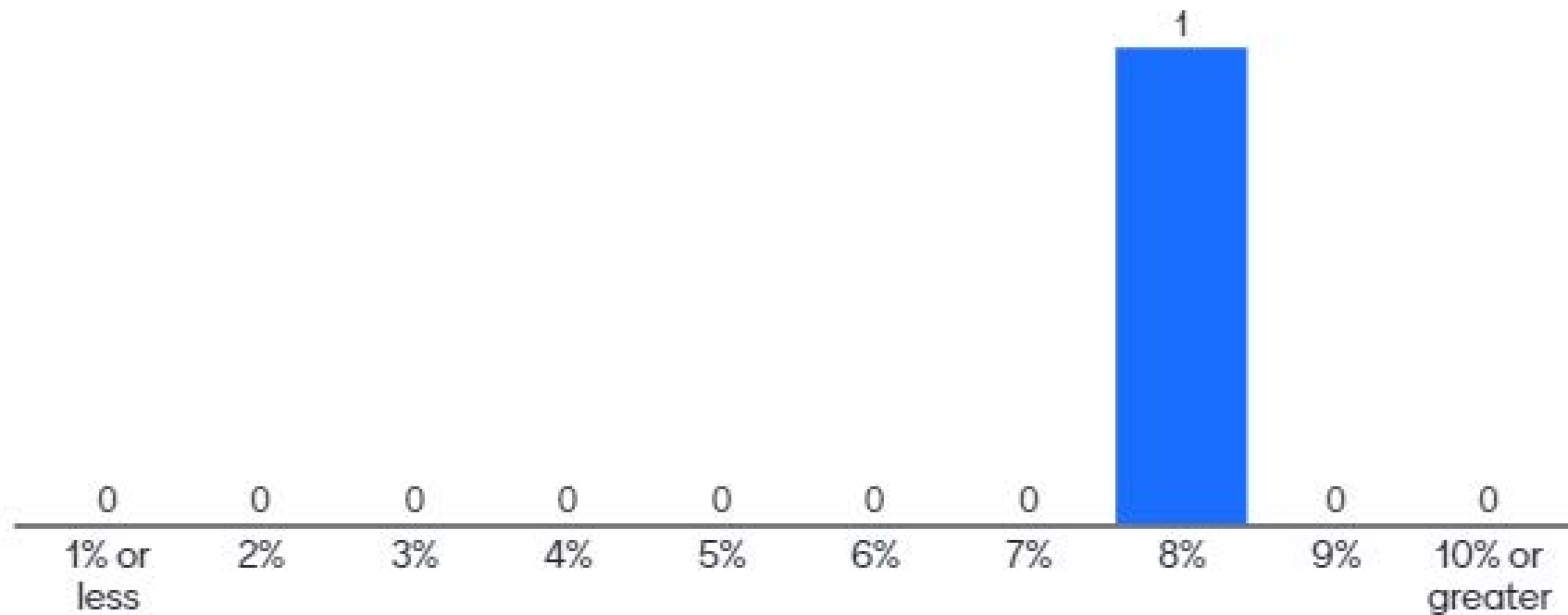
**on your computer or smartphone:
www.menti.com**

enter code: 4011 9301

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 4011 9301

What is your energy burden?

Mentimeter



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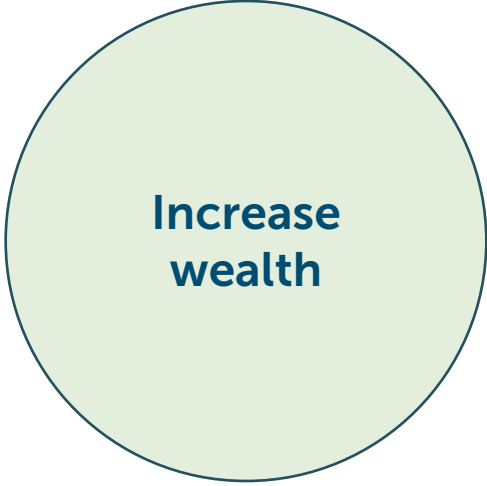
EVT Resources for
Energy Committees



Factors to influence



Change rates



**Increase
wealth**



Reduce costs

Low-income program portfolio

Least comprehensive

Most comprehensive

Lowest project cost average

Highest project cost average

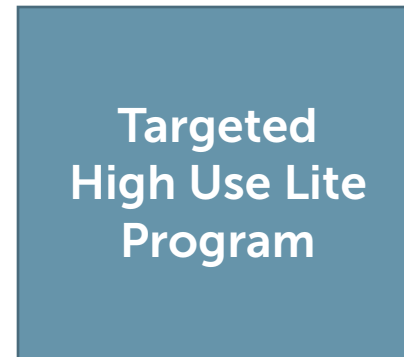
2021



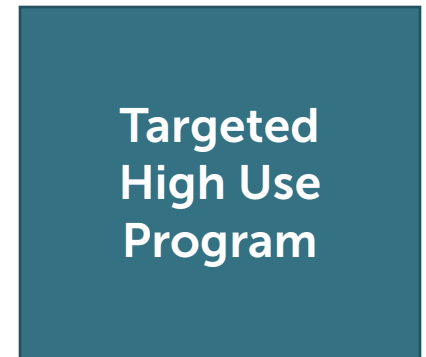
2019



2021

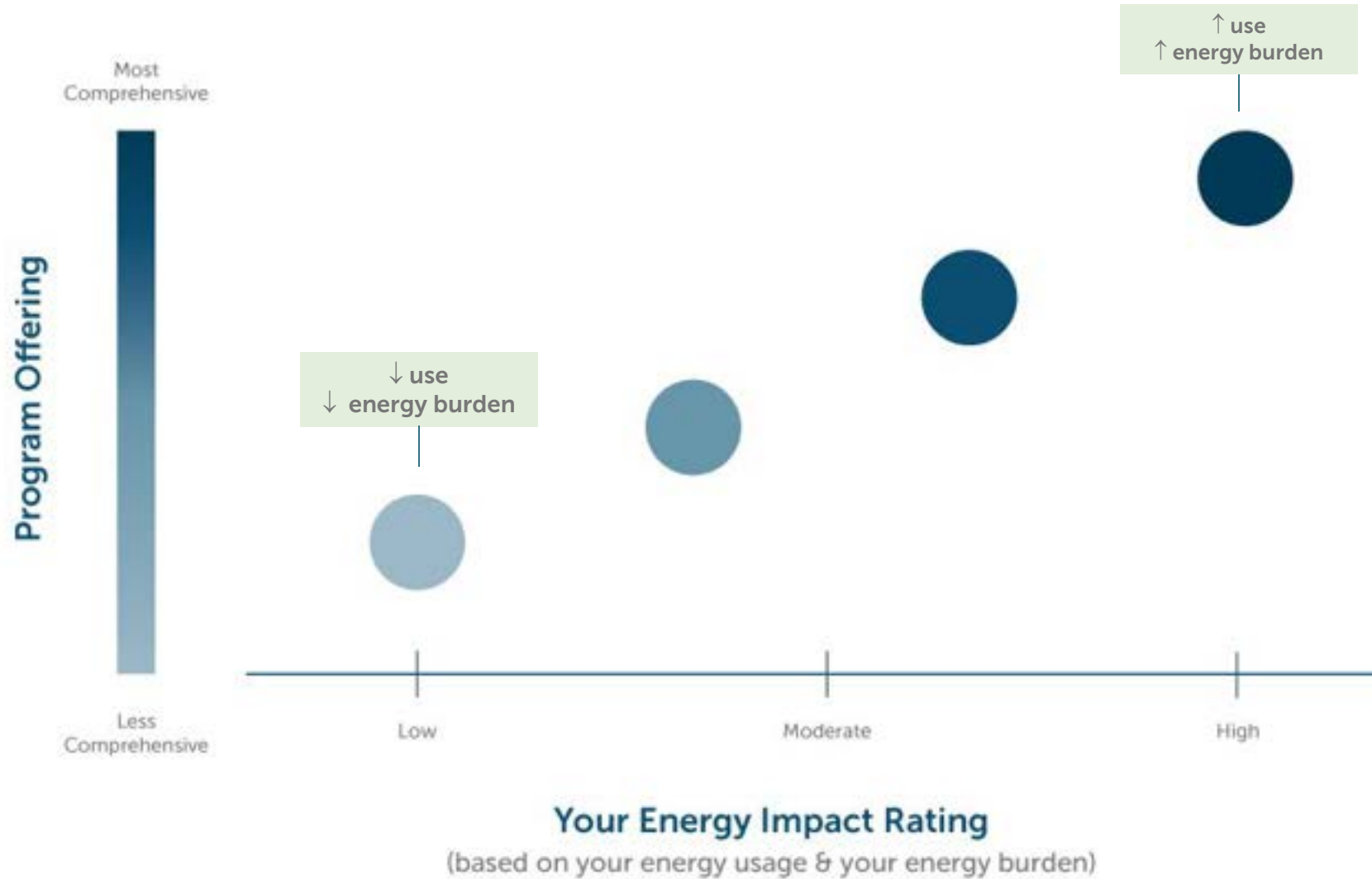


2009



Residential Program Offering Qualification

Program services tailored to your energy usage & energy burden





Targeted High Use

Implemented statewide through contracts with Vermont's Weatherization Agencies. Customers receive site visit during which DI measures are addressed, appliances are evaluated for replacement, and CCHP and HPWH installation opportunities are identified. The entire program is free to customers.

Targeted High Use Lite

Same service delivery as THU, except customers can select one qualifying appliance to replace instead of all those eligible. A HPWH can be included in selection. Additionally, customers can opt to have the site visit conducted virtually.



Appliance Replacement Voucher

Customers receive a \$700 voucher to help cover the cost of a replacement refrigerator, washing machine, freezer, air conditioner or dehumidifier. Vouchers cover the cost of delivery, installation and removal of the old unit, and can be redeemed at participating retailers.

Energy Savings Kit Program

Qualifying customers can choose between two preassembled ESKs that are either lighting only or lighting, showerheads and faucet aerators. Orders are fulfilled by outside vendor and mailed directly to customers.

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Weatherization Assistance Program

Mission

- “To help low-income Vermonters save fuel and money by improving the energy efficiency and health and safety of their homes”.



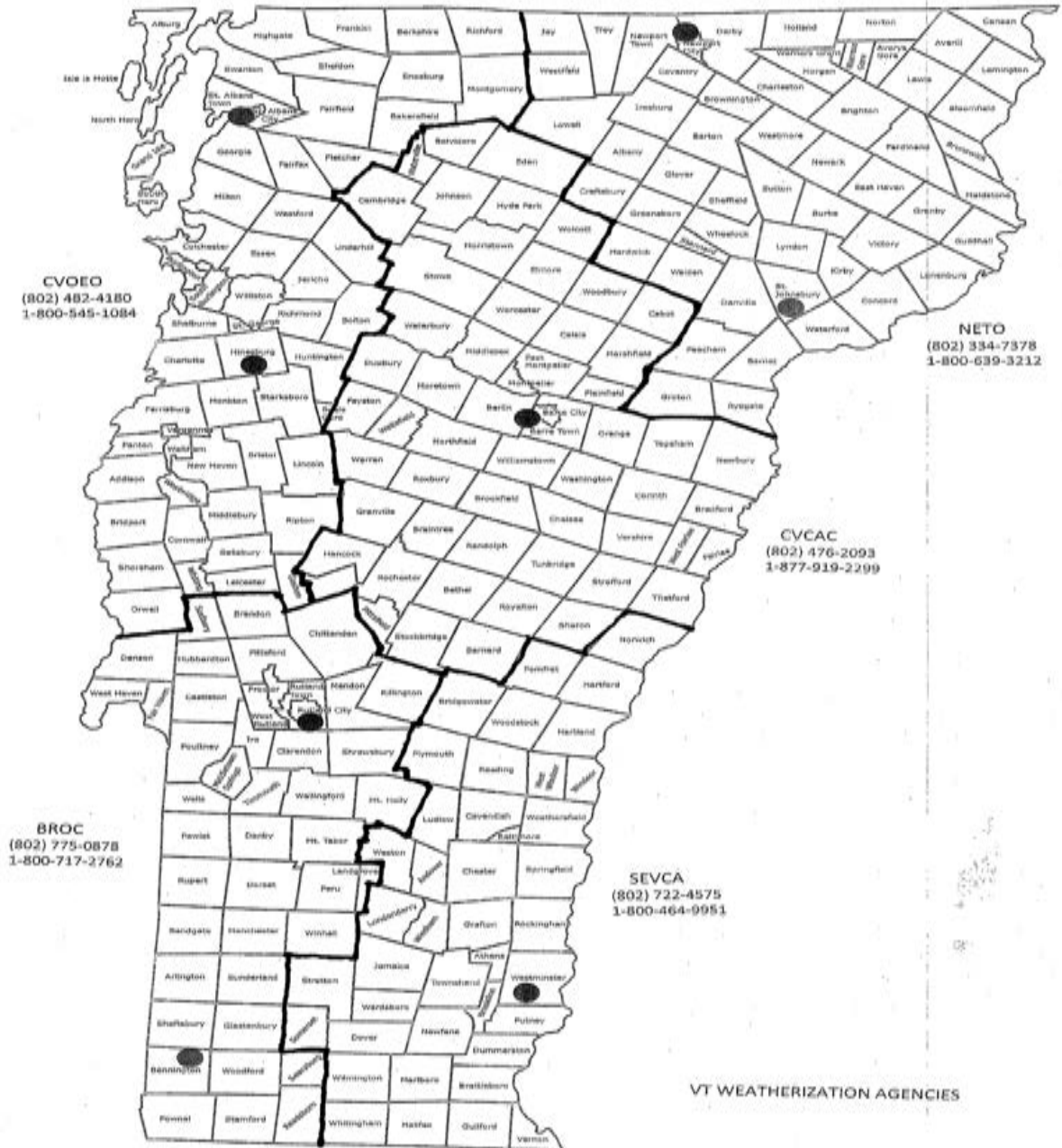
Based on prior evidence of how weatherization reduces average customer bills, we estimate that it can reduce low-income household energy burden by 25%.

ACEEE (2020), How High Are Household Energy Burdens?

Who does the work

5 Local Wx Agencies

- BROC
- Capstone
- CVOEO
- NETO
- SEVCA



Key program points

- The program is free for low-income clients and provides approx. \$8,500 worth of energy efficiency work per home.
- The program employs approx. 120 Wx workers at 5 Agencies and 3 at our State Wx office.
- The work we do saves clients money, improves comfort, improves indoor air quality and improves indoor health.
- We receive State and Federal Wx funds totaling \$18 million this year.
- The program exists in every state and has been in existence since the late 1970's when created by the Department of Energy.

Scope of work

- Efficiency Coaching
- Insulation (cellulose, spray foam, rigid foam)
- Comprehensive air sealing at top and bottom of a building
- Combustion appliance clean and tunes and repairs
- Install and Improve IAQ. Bathroom and kitchen ventilation
- Duct work improvements
- Safety devices (CO and Smoke)
- Limited minor structural repairs to allow our work to happen

Process

- Enhanced Client Education (Efficiency Coaching and LEEP work)
- Comprehensive Energy Audit
- Determining most cost-effective energy saving and health and safety work
- Installation of those “measures”
- Thorough Quality Assurance and Control (by agency and State office) of EVERY project / home.



Eligibility

You are eligible for Weatherization services — whether you own or rent — if:

- Your household income is at or below 80% of median income.
- [Click here](#) for the 2022 income eligibility guidelines.
- Priority is given to households with incomes below 60% of median income.
- Auto qualifiers: if you are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Seasonal Fuel Assistance
- How to Apply? <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/weatherization>

Seasonal fuel assistance - LIHEAP

Helps pay for part of home heating bills (own or rent)

- Eligibility - 185% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Apply online: dcf.vermont.gov/benefits
- Apply by phone: 800-479-6151
- Apply in person: Economic Services Division (ESD) District Offices through state www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd/contact-us/districts

Other energy assistance programs

Green Mountain Power

- Energy Assistance for Income Eligible GMP Customers: 25% Discount

Vermont Gas Systems

- 20% discount for eligible customers

Other energy assistance programs

Crisis Fuel

- For those out of heating fuel or about to be and have no money to purchase more
- 200% of FPL

Contact Local Community Action Agency

- BROCC- Southwestern Vermont- 1-800-717-2762
- Capstone- Central Vermont 1-800-639-1053
- CVOEO- Northwestern Vermont 1-800-287-7971
- NEKCA- Northeast Kingdom- 1-802-334-7316
- SEVCA- Southeastern Vermont- 1-800-464-9951
- Weekends and Holidays- 1-800-479-6151

Home repair services

Weatherization Assistance Program

- Limited to repairs needed to weatherize homes only (leaking roof, vermiculite insulation)

Vermont 2-1-1

- Call 211
- Visit www.vermont211.org
 - Find Resources- Explore Database
 - Category Search
 - Housing/Shelter
 - Home Owners/Buyers
 - Home Rehabilitation Grants and Loans

Vermont 2-1-1

Directory service

- USDA- Rural Development (statewide)
- Champlain Housing Trust (Northwest VT)
- Rural Edge (Caledonia County)
- Community & Economic Development Office (Burlington)
- Windham and Windsor Housing Trust
- Downstreet Housing and Community Development (Barre)
- NeighborWorks of Western Vermont

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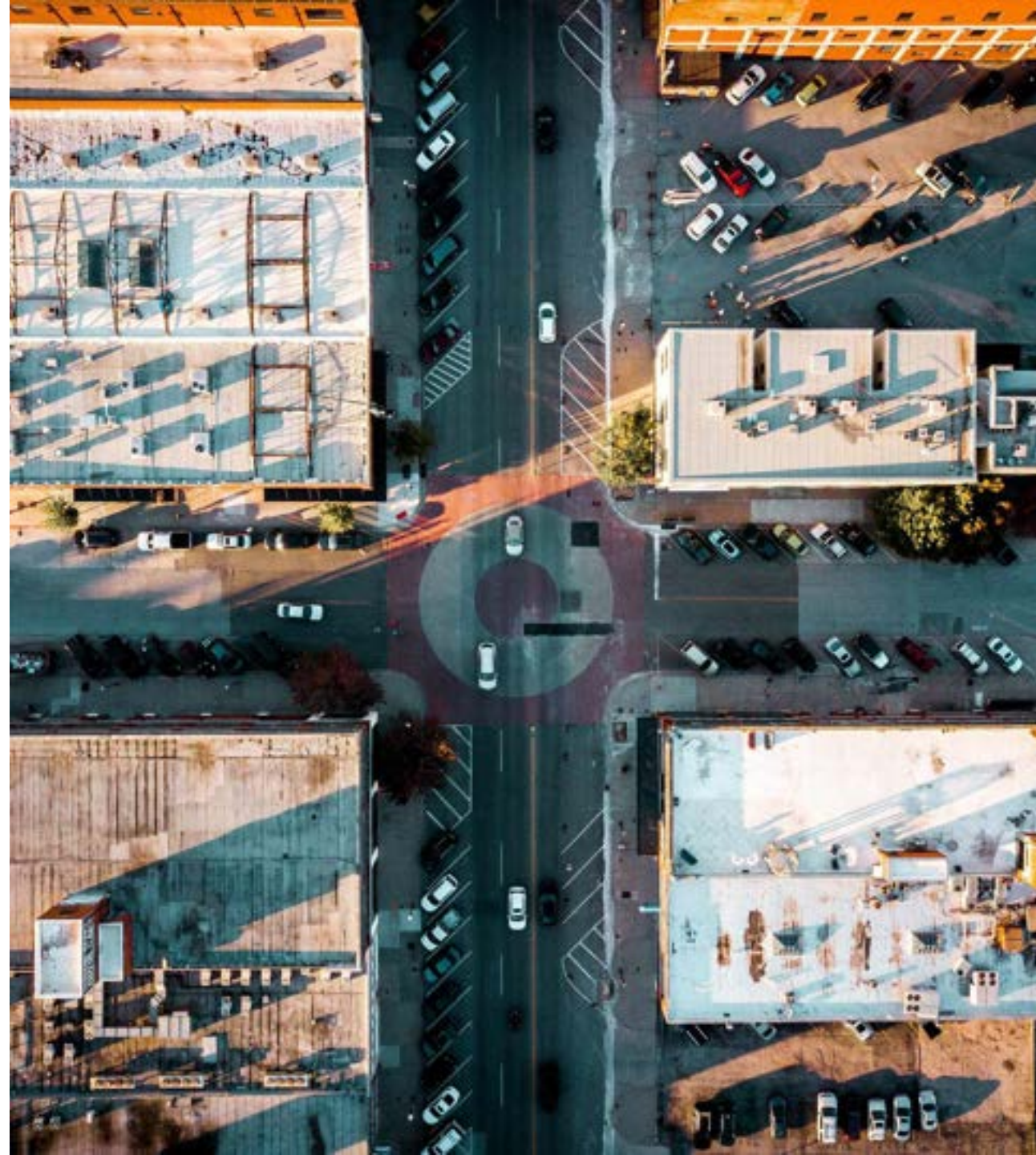
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Efficiency Vermont Community Managers

Brad Long



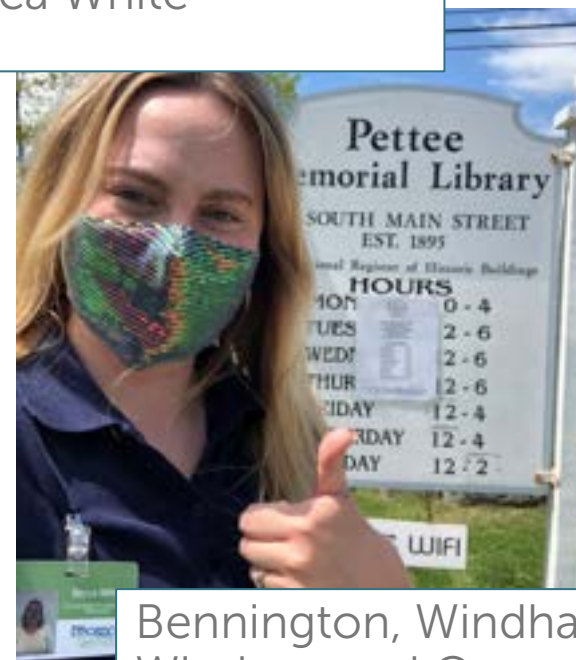
Washington, Addison, Rutland, and Lamoille

Michelle McCutcheon-Schour



Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Orleans, and Essex

Becca White



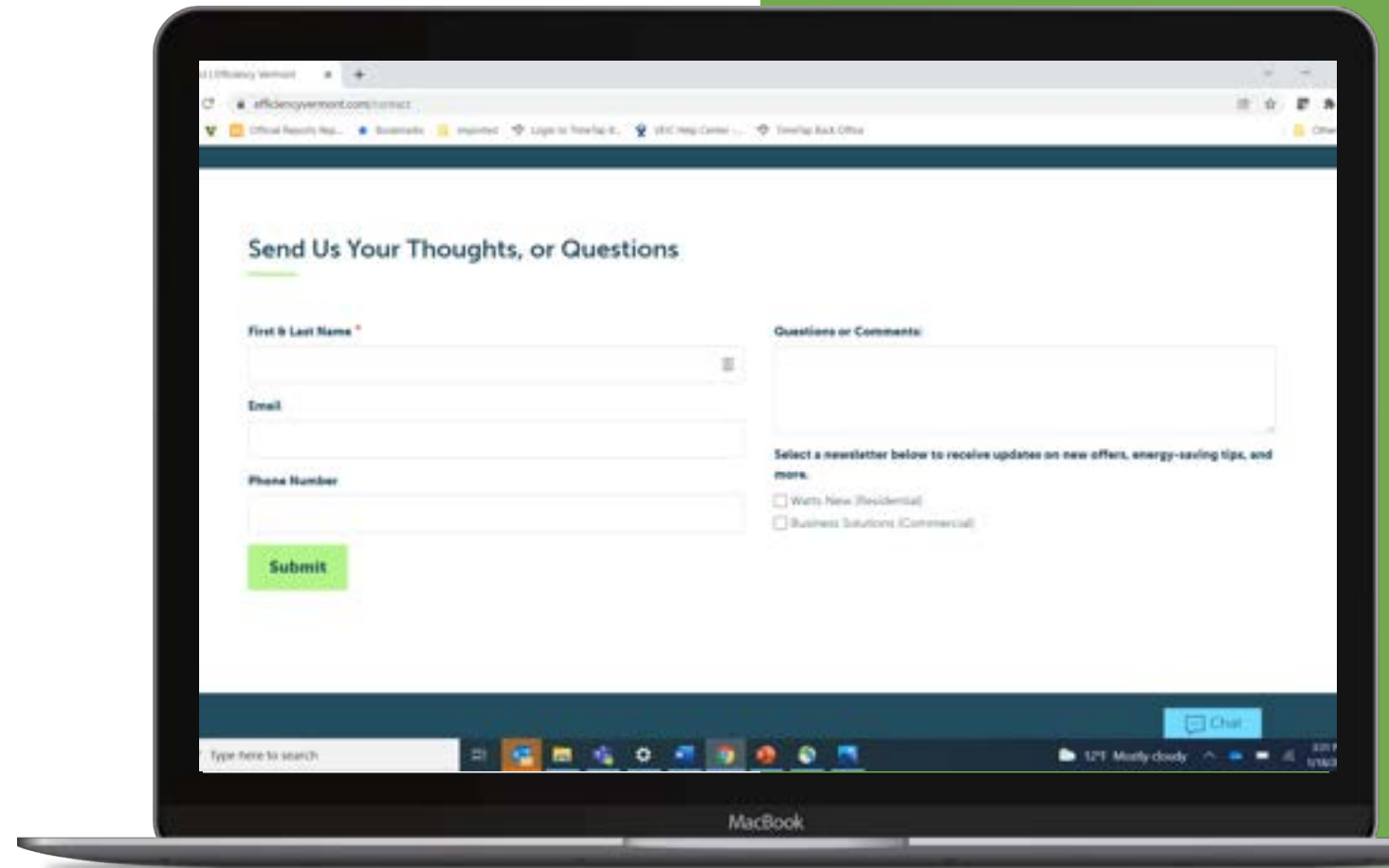
Bennington, Windham, Windsor, and Orange

Is your energy committee looking to do more...

Please reach out!

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- Michelle McCutcheon-Schour – mmschour@veic.org

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Questions?

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